SMSgt (Ret.) Rob Rosenberger

Twitter @rsnbrgr

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Title: BIOGRAPHY OF BRIG. GEN. ROBERT W. DOUGLASS, JR.

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ROBERT W. DOUGLASS, JR.
O-14972
Brigadier General

Brigadier General Robert W. Douglass, Jr. was born in Memphis, Tennessee, on 8 March 1900. After graduating from Central High School in Memphis he attended for three weeks at the University of Tennessee, where he was a private in The Student Army Training Corps from 10 October 1918 to 3 November 1918. He then received an appointment to the United States Military Academy, from which he graduated in 1922 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Infantry, on 8 June 1922.

From September 1922 to March 1924 General Douglass was stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia. He went to Brooks Field, Texas for flight training from March 1924 to September 1924, and then to Kelly Field, Texas, where he graduated from the Army Pursuit course in March 1925. From 2 April 1925 to 10 December 1925 he was stationed at Selfridge Field, Michigan, where he served with the 94th Pursuit Squadron as Supply Officer and as Post Parachute Officer. In 1925 he was awarded the Distinguished Gunnery Medal for proficiency in pursuit gunnery.

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On 29 January 1926 General Douglass commenced a tour of duty in Panama, Canal Zone, which extended to 9 December 1928. During that period he served as Acting Armament Officer and Post Parachute Officer and served with the 24th Pursuit Squadron as Operations Officer, Engineering Officer, Armament Officer and Supply Officer. At that time this was the only pursuit squadron stationed in the Canal Zone. While at this station General Douglass participated in the first military flight from Panama to the United States and return, which was accomplished in pursuit planes via Central America, Mexico and Cuba.

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After his tour of duty in Panama, General Douglass returned to Kelly Field to attend Instructor's School. From 31 January 1929 to 30 October 1929 he was stationed at Brooks Field as a Flight Instructor, ACPFS, and as Assistant Commandant of Flying Cadets. He was also Aide de Camp to Brigadier General Frank P. Lahm, who was the first military aviator in the United States. There followed a tour of duty at Duncan Field from 1 November 1929 to 30 September 1931 and later at Randolph Field from 1 October 1931 to 6 June 1934. During this time he served as Assistant Adjutant, ACTC, and Aide de Camp to Brigadier General Charles H. Danforth.

From 25 August 1934 to 4 June 1935 General Douglass attended the Air Corps Technical School at Maxwell Field as a student. He was promoted to Captain on 1 August 1935. He then went to Barksdale Field, Louisiana, where he served until 19 August 1936 as Flight Commander with the 55th Pursuit Squadron and as Intelligence Officer and Operations Officer with the 20th Pursuit Group. He was promoted temporarily to the grade of Major on 8 March 1936.

General Douglass attended the Command and General Staff School from 19 August 1936 to June 1937. In September 1937 he was transferred to the Hawaiian Department and was assigned to Wheeler Field, T. H. While at this station he served with the 18th Pursuit Group as Commanding Officer of the 6th Pursuit Squadron, which was one of the only two pursuit squadrons stationed in Hawaii at that time. General Douglass remained at Wheeler Field until his transfer to Mitchel Field, New York, on 23 May 1939. He received his permament promotion to the grade of Major on 1 July 1940.

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General Douglass was then transferred to the Hawaiian Department and on 16 September 1942 was assigned to Seventh Air Force and to VII Fighter Command. A few days thereafter, on 23 September 1942, he received his promotion to Brigadier General, AUS.

General Douglass is at present the Commanding General, VII Fighter Command. He has on several occasions assumed command of Seventh Air Force during the temporary absence of Major General Hale, and on 1 November 1943, he was appointed Deputy Commander, Seventh Air Force, in addition to his other duties.

D.H. Jones

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Where he was a private in the Student Army Training Corps from 10 October 1918 to 3 November 1918.

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File - Briefs.

BIOGRAPHY OF BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBT. W. DOUGLASS, JR.

- - -

Robert W. Douglass, Jr., born in Memphis, Tenn., 8 March 1900.
Attended Central H.S., Memphis.
Attended U. of Tennessee for three weeks before receiving appointment to West Point.
Graduated from West Point with the Class of 1922. Played varsity polo for three years while at West Point.
On leaving West Point, wasassigned to the Infantry and stationed at Ft. Benning, Ga.
Went to Brooks Field, Tex., for flight training in March, 1924.
Went to Kelly Field, Tex., in Sept., 1924, and graduated from the Army pursuit course there in March, 1925.
First Air Corps assignment was at Selfridge Field, Mich., with the ~~1st Pursuit Group~~. 2 ~~March~~ April, 1925 to ~~Jan.~~ 18 Dec., 1925. In 1925 was awarded the Distinguished Gunnery Medal for proficiency in pursuit gunnery.
Sup O 94 Pur Sq Post Para 6
In Jan., 1926 began a three year tour of duty in Panama. Member of the only pursuit squadron then stationed at the Canal Zone. While at Panama participated, with Col. James E. Parker as leader, in the first military flight from Panama to U.S., via Central America and Mexico, and returned via Cuba, -- in pursuit planes. A very hazardous flight at that time under existing conditions and in pursuit planes.
In 1929 came back to Kelly Field to attend Instructors' School, then to Brooks Field as a flight instructor. Also, aide de camp to Brig. Gen. Frank P. Lahm, the first military aviator in U.S.
31 Jan 29 30 Oct 29
ACPFS + Asst Comdt Fly Cadet
From 1930-34, A.D.C. to Brig. Gen. Chas. H. Danforth, A.C.
June, 1934 to June, 1935, with Air Corps Tactical School.
June, 1935 to June, 1936, operations officer for the 20th Pursuit Group, then commanded by the present Commanding General of the South Pacific Area, Maj. Gen. Millard F. Harmon.
June, 1936 to June, 1937, at Command and General Staff School, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.
1937-39, Hawaii, stationed at Wheeler Field with 18th Pursuit Group, as commanding officer of the 6th Pursuit Squadron. There were only two pursuit squadrons stationed at Hawaii at that time.
1939, returned to Mitchell Field, N.Y.
Sept., 1940, went to London as Air Corps observer with R.A.F. This was right after the R.A.F. had won the aerial Battle of Britain.
After returning from England, went to Third Air Force, Tampa, Fla., as executive officer of III Fighter Command, covering southeast U.S. Was there at the same time as the late Maj. Gen. Clarence L. Tinker and Maj. Gen. Willis H. Hale, present C.G. of the Seventh Air Force.
Next went to Wash., D.C., as member of the Operations Division of the War Dept. Also, served as a member of the Canadian-U.S. Permanent Joint Board on Defense. Also, U.S. Air Member of the Inter-American Defense Board, made up of 21 American Republics.
Gen Staff
+ Mex-U.S. Defense Com
Came to Seventh Air Force in Hawaii. Promoted to Brig. General in 23 Sept., 1942. +
16 Sept 42 assd 7 AF + same day > VII FC

Married; wife, Helen N. Douglass, Tampa, Fla. One son, aged 15 years.

30 Sept. 1942.

SEVENTH AIR FORCE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE
#####

Douglass. 0.14972

SATC Univ Tenn. Sept 14 - Nov 18

Inf Ft Benning Ga. Sept 22 - Mar 24

AC Flying Schs Mar 24 - Mar 25 Brooks Fld 1 Mar 24 - 12 Sept 24
Kelly Fld. 13 Sept 24 - 20 Mar 25

~~Panama 29 Jan 26 - 9 Dec 28~~

AC Train Center Jan 29 - June 34

ACTS June 34 - June 35

Barksdale Fld Lt 1 July 35 - ~~June~~ 19 Aug 36 - 55 Pur Sq as Flt Comdr.
20 Pur Op Hq Intel + Opns O.

C + GS Sch. 19 Aug 36 - June 37

Wheeler Fld Sept 37

Actg Arm O
Post Para O.
24 Pur Sq - Opns O
Engr O
Arm O
Sup O.
CO. Albrook Fld

Duncan Fld 1 Nov 29 - 30 Sept 31
ADC, Asst Adj. ACTC

Randolph Fld 1 Oct 31 - 6 June 34
ADC, Asst Adj. ACTC.

Maxwell Fld 25 Aug 34 - 4 June 35
~~Student~~ ACTS

25 May 39 - Transfd Lowry Fld Colo.?
WD 23 May 39 - Mitchel

Assumed ~~temp~~ command 7 AF 17 April 43 during Hale's absence
" " 15 July 43
13 Aug 43.

~~45 AFCP 50 301~~
~~28 Oct 43~~
" GO 167 (1 Nov 43) appted Deputy Com'r 7 AF in add. > other duties
" "

21 Dec 43. — ordered > Advon.